GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3260
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2000
SHORTAGE OF NEWSPRINT
PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the shortage of newsprints in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand of newsprint?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH)

(a) &(b) The indigenous production of newsprint is about 5 lakh tonnes per annum and the demand of newsprint exceeds indigenous production. Therefore, import of newsprint has been allowed under Open General Licence (OGL) with actual user condition.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to meet the demand of newsprint through indigenous production which include:-

(i) Newsprint Industry has been delicensed subject to locational policy.

(ii) Newsprint has been exempted from excise duty.

(iii) There is no Customs Duty on import of wood pulp for manufacture of newsprint.

(iv) Paper mills, producing paper conforming to standards prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards for newsprint, are placed in Schedule-I to the Newsprint Control Order, 1962 declaring them as mills manufacturing newsprint.